In re Application of Mark Kiff
Application No. 10/706,807

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of making a woven or knitted fabric having corresponding color contrast and surface geometry contrast between first regions and second regions in the fabric, said method comprising:

(a) providing a fabric, said fabric having yarns forming a pile, said first pile having a first pile height, said fabric having first regions and second regions;

(b) providing dye in an unfixed state into said yarns of said fabric;

(c) etching said fabric upon said pile in a predetermined pattern by applying to said pile of said second regions a yarn-degrading composition, said yarn-degrading composition being effective to degrade yarns in said second regions, thereby forming in said second regions yarns having a second pile height;

(d) fixing said dye in said first and second regions;

(e) forming a fabric having first regions of a first pile height and second regions of a second pile height, said second pile height being less than said first pile height; and

(f) generating a substantial color contrast which provides a predetermined positive ΔL^* value differential between said first regions and said second regions,

wherein steps (b) and (c) above are performed separately and sequentially.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said color contrast ΔL^* value is at least about 25 percent.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of making a fabric by chemically etching fibers of the fabric, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a fabric having a first side, said first side having a pile, said pile comprising a plurality of yarns having a first height, said plurality of yarns forming a first plane in said fabric;

(b) applying to said first side of said fabric a solution containing an unfixed dye;

(c) applying a mask to said first side of said fabric;

(d) selectively covering with said mask predetermined portions of said fabric, said covered portions of said fabric comprising first regions, said uncovered portions of said fabric comprising second regions; wherein said first regions further comprise first yarns having unfixed dye applied thereon, said second regions further comprising second yarns having unfixed dye applied thereon;

(e) applying a chemical etching agent to said second regions of said fabric,

(f) chemically reacting said etching agent said second yarns of said second regions, thereby shortening by chemical degradation at least a portion of said second yarns in said second regions to a second height which is less than said first height;

(g) removing unfixed dye in said second yarns of said second regions of said fabric;

(h) heating said fabric to fix said unfixed dye in said first and second regions of said fabric; and

(i) thereby forming a fabric having second regions which exhibit a different pile height and a different color intensity as compared to said first regions,

wherein steps (b) and (e) above are performed separately and sequentially.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising the following steps:

(j) providing in said fabric a third region;

(k) applying a mask to said first side of said fabric to expose only said third region;

(l) applying unfixed dye to said third region;

(m) applying a chemical etching agent to said third region, thereby chemically etching said third region;

(n) heating said fabric to fix said unfixed dye in said third region; and

(o) thereby forming a fabric having third regions which exhibit a different pile height and a different color intensity as compared to said first and second regions,

wherein steps (l) and (m) above are performed separately and sequentially.

18. (Canceled)

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19. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the yarns comprise polyester, and the yarn-degrading composition is an alkaline composition.

20. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the yarns comprise polyester, and the yarn-degrading composition is an alkaline composition.

21. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the yarns comprise polyester, and the chemical etching agent is an alkaline composition.